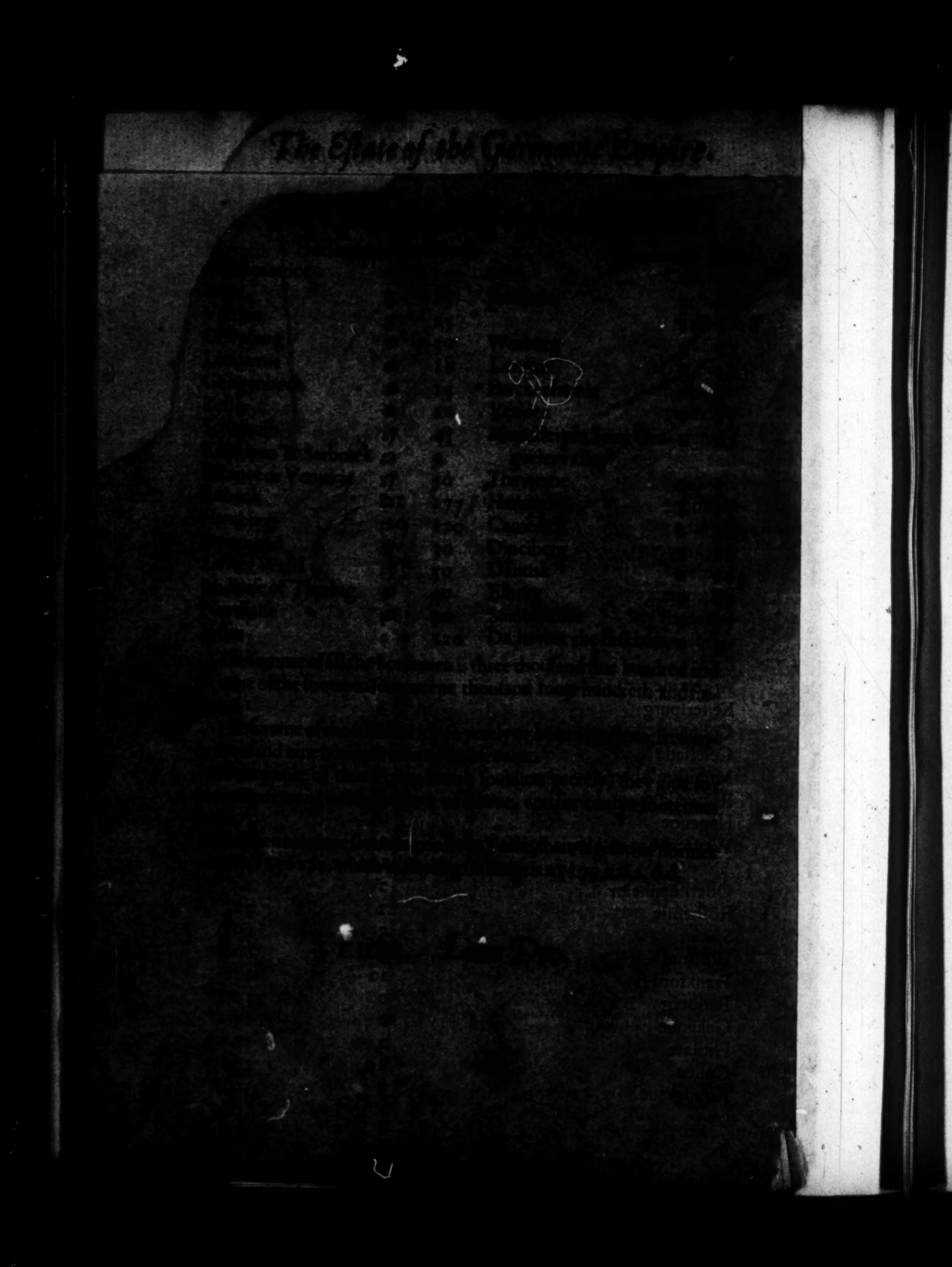

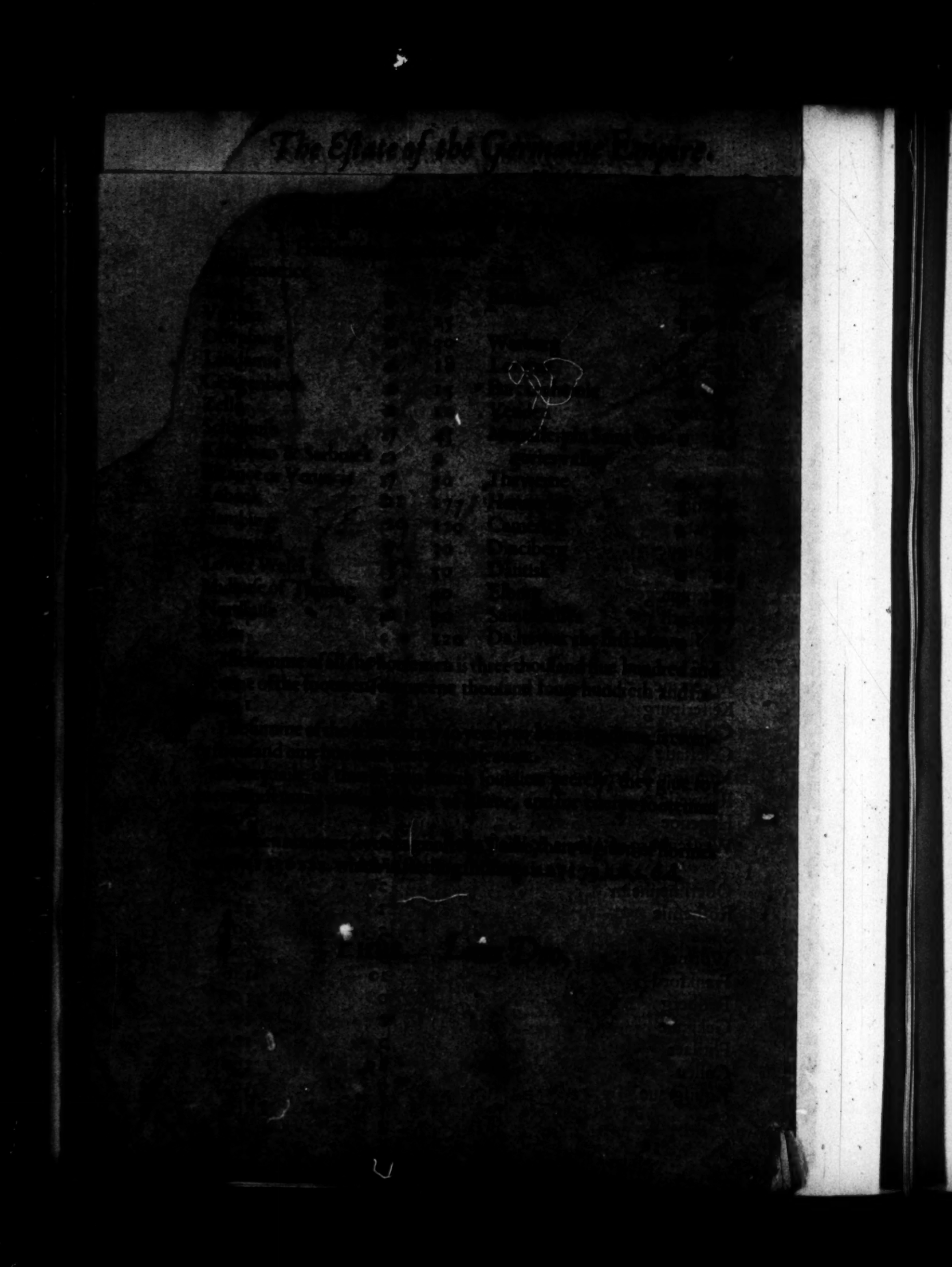

# THE GOLDEN BVLL:

OR,

## The Fundamentall Lavves and Constitutions of the *Empire.*

*Shewing,*

The Persons and Priuiledges of the *Princes Electors, the manner of the Election,* the forme and Ceremonies thereof, with *other politique Orders to be obserued by the States* and Subiects of the Empire, which shall be assembled at Francford (*for the Election of the new* next Emperour) the tenth day of *July next ensuing.*

1619.

LONDON:
Imprinted by *T. S.* for *Nathaniell Newbery*, and are to be sold at the signe of the Star vnder S. *Peters* Church in Cornehill, and in Popes-head Alley.
1619.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

# The Imperiall Lawes and *Conſtitutions, ſet downe in the Gol-*den Bull, or Letters Patents of CHARLES *the fourth, Emperour of* Rome, *for* the Election of Emperors.

(* * *)

*In the Name of the moſt holy, inſeparable and glorious Trinity.* Amen.

CHARLES the fourth, by the Diuine grace of God, Emperour of *Rome*, *ſemper Auguſtus*, and King of *Bohemia*; for a perpetuall memorie to all Poſteritie, Sendeth greeting. *Euery kingdome diuided in it ſelfe, ſhal be madde eſolate; for the Princes thereof are become fellowes with theeues*: therefore the Lord ſendeth the ſpirit of Blindeneſſe amongſt them, that at noone day they grope about as if they were in darkenes; and remoueth their Candleſticke out of their place, that they ſhould be blind leaders of the blinde, and they that walke in darkeneſſe offend, and are deceiued, and being blinde, commit wickedneſſe, and

fall into diuiſion. Tell mee *Pride*, how didſt thou raigne in *Lucifer*, but by the meanes and aide of Diſſention? Say enuious *Leuiathan*, how didſt thou caſt *Adam* out of Paradiſe terreſtriall, but by making him to diſobey God? Speake *Luſt*, how didſt thou deſtroy *Troy*, but by cauſing *Helena* to forſake her huſband? Say *Wrath*, how didſt thou deſtroy the common-wealth of *Rome*, but by mouing *Iulius Ceſar* and *Pompey* to ciuill and inteſtine warre? Thou *Enuie*, like a craftie Serpent, creeping into the Chriſtian Empire (which by the power of the holy and inſeparable Trinity is grounded on the Theological vertues of Faith, Hope, and Charitie) and whoſe foundation is happily eſtabliſhed vpon the moſt Chriſtian Kingdome of God, by pouring thy auncient and moſt impious venime amongſt the imperiall branches, and neareſt members of the ſame, (that the Pillars thereof beeing ſhaken, the whole building might fall to the ground) oftentimes haſt ſet vngodly diuiſion among the ſeauen Electors of the Empire, by whom (as by ſeuen Candleſtickes, ſhining in the vnitie of a ſeuen-fold Spirit) the holy Empire ſhould be illuminated.

Therefore, by vertue of our office, which by the Imperiall Crowne we hold, to preuent the dangers of future diuiſions and diſſentions among the Electors, whereof (as being King of *Bohemia*) we acknowledge our ſelfe to be one, by a double reaſon, as well of our Imperiall Commaund, as by our right of Election, which we execute, among other Lawes preſcribed for the nouriſhing and maintaining of

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correſpondencie among the Electors, and thereby to induce them vnto an vnitie of Election, and a deteſtation of the afore-ſaid diuiſion, and to ſtop the paſſage vnto diuers perills thereby enſuing at an Imperiall aſſembly, holden in our Court at *Norembergh*, in the preſence of all the Princes Electors, Spirituall and Temporall, and of a great number of other Princes, Earles, Barons, Knights, Gentlemen, and Burgeſſes of the Cities and Townes of our Empire, ſitting in our Throne, apparelled in our Imperiall Robes, and Crowne vpon our head, with mature deliberation, and by imperiall power, ordaine, declare, and eſtabliſh, &c. In the yeare of our LORD GOD 1356. in the ninth *Indiction*, and the fourth *Ides* of *Ianuary*, and of our reigne the tenth of *Bohemia*, and the firſt of our EMPIRE.

*In what manner the Electors are to be conducted to the Election, and by whom.*

WE ordaine, and by this our preſent Imperiall Edict, perpetually to be obſerued, commaund, of our meere motion and free Imperiall power, that as often, and whenſoeuer, in time to come, vpon neceſſitie, or the cauſe of Election of the King of *Romaines* to be Emperour, it ſhall happen and fall out, that the Princes Electors, according to the auncient and laudable cuſtome for the ſaid Election, are to trauell, and ſet forward on their iourney, euery Prince Elector ſhall (vpon requeſt made by the ſaid Electors) be bound to conduct

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and accompany his co-Electors, when they are for that cauſe to trauell, through their territories, lands and iuriſdictions; and further alſo, as neceſſitie requireth, and without refuſall, conuey them to the City or place where ſuch Election is to be made and celebrated, and alſo at their returne from thence, vpon paine of periurie, and loſſe (for that time onely) of his or their voyce, which he or they is, or are, to haue in the ſaid Election.

Which ſaid penalties, to him or them, that ſhall ſhew themſelues rebellious, obſtinate, or negligent, in the ſaid conduction, we our ſelues will iudge and impoſe.

Wee further ordaine and commaund all other Princes, Feodaries, and belonging to the Imperiall Iuriſdiction, by what name ſoeuer they are called, Dukes, Earles, Barons, Knights, and their Retainers, Gentlemen and others, Burgeſſes and Officers of Caſtles, Cities and places whatſoeuer of the ſacred Empire, that at ſuch time as the King of the *Romains* is to be elected Emperor, vpon requeſt vnto them made by the Princes Electours, or any of them, for conduction, either of themſelues, or their Deputies, which they ſhall appoint, as aforeſaid, without any deniall, to conduct & guide them thorow their territories, lands & poſſeſſions, & further, as need ſhall require. And that if they ſhall preſume or refuſe not to doe as wee herein ordaine and appoint, they ſhall be liable to the paines and penalties heereafter following, *viz.* All Princes, Earles, Barons, Knights, Nobles and Gentlemen, doing the contrary,

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contrary, ſhall incurre the paine of guiltineſſe of periurie, and depriuation of all liberties and immunities whatſoeuer they hold and enioy by Imperiall right, or otherwiſe; as alſo of all other their offices and functions: And all Burgeſſes, and Commons of Cities and Townes, that preſume to doe the contrarie, are likewiſe guiltie of periurie, and ſhall be depriued of all the Rights, Liberties, Priuiledges, and Immunities, which by Imperiall libertie and graunt they hold and haue obtained; which together with their bodies and goods ſhall eſcheate and fall into the Emperours hands; and further, *ipſo facto*, be depriued of all Law and Right whatſoeuer; ſo that from thence-forth, it ſhall be lawfull for euery priuate man, of his owne authoritie, without lawfull proceedings, or aide of Magiſtrates, freely to aſſaile, and ſet vpon them, not once incurring any penalty, paine, or puniſhment whatſoeuer, by Imperiall authoritie, or otherwiſe, for the ſame, they being ſo conuinced for diſobedience againſt the Commonwealth, and the ſacred ſtate and dignitie of the Empire, as alſo againſt their owne honours and credits, and found to haue raſhly neglected their duties, and done as rebells, diſobedient ſubiects, and periured perſons againſt the Decree aforeſaide. Decreeing further, and commanding, That the Citizens and Inhabitants of all Towns and places where the ſayd Princes Electors, and either, or any of them, as alſo their Deputies, or their ſeruants ſhall lodge or reſt themſelues, in their iourney towards, or in the place of the Election aforeſaid, to ſell, and cauſe their victualls

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victualls to be ſolde at the common rate and price accuſtomed, without inhauncing, or extraordinarily raiſing the price of the ſame, vnto them and their retinue, for their neceſſary prouiſion; as alſo in their departure or returning home from thence againe. And whoſoeuer ſhall doe the contrary, we will that they ſhall incurre the ſame penalties that are formerly ſet downe againſt Citizens and others, for diſobedience in the caſes aforeſaid. Further, if any of the Princes, Earles, Barons, Knights, Gentlemen, Burgeſſes, and Inhabitants of Townes and Cities whatſoeuer, ſhall offer to preſume malitiouſly to wrong or doe any iniury openly or priuily, by any meanes whatſoeuer, vnto the Princes Electors in the way or otherwiſe, as they trauell to the place where the King of the *Romains* is to be elected, or in their returne from thence againe; or ſhall preſume to aſſaile or trouble them, or any of them, perſonally, or any of their Deputies aforeſayd, trauelling to and from the ſaid place, whether they ſhall demand conduction, or not, ſuch perſon or perſons, together with their adherents and complices, ſhall preſently thereupon incurre the paines and puniſhments aforeſaid, euery man according to his ſtate, qualitie, and condition, as aforeſaid. And if any of the Princes Electors ſhall fall out or haue any particular quarrell, contention, or controuerſie, one with or againſt the other, notwithſtanding the ſame, they ſhall be bound to conuey and conduct one the other, or their Deputies by them appointed for the ſaid Election, to the place of Election, and backe

againe,

againe as aforesaid, vpon paine of incurring the dishonour of periurie, and the losse (for that time only) of their voice in the Election, as aforesaid. And if any other Princes, Earles, Barons, Knights, Gentlemen, Citizens, or Commons of Townes whatsoeuer, shall haue any particular quarrell with, or beare any euill will or mind vnto the Princes Electors in generall, or any of them in particular, or if that there shall sodainely arise any quarrell, contention, or warre betweene them; whereby all controuersies and contentions to cease, they shall conduct the said Princes or Princes Electors, or their or their Deputies, appointed to goe to the said Election, in their iourney both forward and backeward, as they will shunne and auoide the paines and penalties aforesaid, by vs set downe to be inflicted vpon them that shall doe the contrarie, wherein we our selues will be Iudges, &c.

For the better and further establishing and confirming of all the premises, we will and command, That euery & all the Princes Electors, and the rest of the Earles, Barons, Knights, Gentlemen, Cities, Townes, & Inhabitants thereof, shall, by their oathes, set downe in writing, vnder their hands, promise & binde themselues, to obserue, fulfill, and keepe all the premises, in euery point faithfully and truely, according to the tenour thereof: And whosoeuer shall deny or refuse to doe the same, shall forthwith incurre the paines and punishments, that are formerly inflicted vpon euery man, according to his or their estate and degree.

If any Prince Elector, or any other Prince, of what estate or condition soever he be, feodarie to the Empire, Earle, Baron or Knight, or any of their heires and successors, shall not hold, performe, and observe the aforesaid and ensuing constitutions and lawes, or presume to contravene the same, if the said Prince Elector offend therein, then the rest of the Electors shall from thence forward exclude him out of their company, and he shall be excluded from his voice of Election, and place of Elector among the rest of the Electors, neither shall he enjoy his feodaries preferments which he actually holdeth of the Empire; And all other Princes and Noble men aforesaid, committing the like offence against our said lawes, likewise shall not enjoy their feodary rights by the Emperor given and granted unto them, and yet nevertheless they shall incurre the danger of all the paines and penalties aforesaid, personally concerning them, according to their degrees and qualities ordained and appointed. And although all and every one of the Princes, Earles, Barons, Knights, Gentlemen, Cities, Townes, and Burgesses of the same, are bound to conduct and accompany every or any one of the said Electors or their deputies as aforesaid; nevertheless, we think it convenient to ordaine and appoint severall and fit conductors and conductions through the Countries, Dominions and Territories neere or nearest adjoyning unto them, as hereafter more at large appeareth.

First, the King of Bohemia, chiefe Butler, or Cup-bearer

Cup-bearer of the Empire, shall be conducted by the Arch-Bishop of *Mentz*, the Bishop of *Lantzberge*, and *Wittenbergh*, the Burgesses of *Wesenbeghe*, *Hohenlee*, *Werthen*, *Brunecke*, and *Hanow*, the townes of *Norenburgh*, *Rotenburgh*, and *Hyndelbern*.

The Arch-Bishop of *Colen*, Chancelor for the Empire in *Italie*, shall be conducted by the Arch-Bishop of *Mentz* and *Tride*, the County *Palatine* of the *Rhine*, the Lantgrave of *Hessen*, the Earles of *Katzenellenbogen*, *Nassaw*, *Dyetz*, *Isenburgh*, *Westerburgh*, *Runckel*, *Limburgh*, and *Valkenstein*, the citie of *Wetflaria*, *Beylenhuysen*, and *Frenckenbergh*.

The Arch-Bishop of *Trauers*, Chancelor for the Empire in *Arelat*, and the Kingdome of *Arles*, shall be conducted by the Arch-Bishop of *Mentz*, the Earles Palatine of the *Rhine*, *Spanheim* and *Valentz*, the Rhingraues of *Wildegraues*, *Nassaw*, *Isenburgh*, *Westerburgh*, *Runckel*, *Limburgh*, *Dyetz*, *Katzenellenbogen*, *Eppinstein*, and *Valkenstein*, and the Citie of *Mentz*.

The county *Palatine* of the *Rhine*, chiefe Seruer of the Empire, shall be conducted by the Arch-Bishop of *Mentz*.

The Duke of *Saxen*, Marshall of the Empire, shall be conducted by the King of *Behemia*, the Arch-Bishops of *Mentz* and *Magdeburgh*, the Bishop of *Lantzburgh* and *Wirtzenburgh*, the Marques of *Missnia*, the Lantgraue of *Hessen*, the Abbots of *Fuldew* and *Herssfelden*, the Burgraues of *Norenburgh*, *Hohenlee*, *Wirthen*, *Brunecke*, *Hanow*, and *Valkenstein*, the Cities of *Erfordt*, *Wulenhuysen*, *Norenburgh*,

Also wee will, and expresly ordaine, that euery one of the Princes Electors that shall desire any such conduction, shall certifie those that shall so by him be required, in such conuenient time, and with all signifie vnto them what way he intends to ride, that they that shall be thereunto required, may haue sufficient time to prepare themselues of all things necessary for the same.

These ordinances aforesaid concerning this conduction, our meaning is shall in such sort be vnderstood, that euery one aboue named, or others not named that shall be required to conduct the said Electors, shall be bound to prepare themselues willingly and readily to doe it, not only through their owne Lands and Territories, but further also, if neede require, vpon paine of the penalties aforesaid seuerally.

We further appoint and ordaine, that the Arch-Bishop of *Mentz*, that for the time shall be, shall by expresse writing signifie vnto euery one of the Princes his fellow Co-electors, both spirituall and temporall, the said Election, in which his Letters, hee shall specifie with as much speede as these Letters can conueniently come vnto their hands, the day on which within three moneths next after ensuing in the said letters contained, al the said Electors, are to be at *Francfort* vpon *Maine*, either

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in person or by his or their lawfull deputies thereunto appointed, with full power and authority vnder their hands and seales, to elect the King of the *Romains* to be Emperour. In what manner & forme such Letters shall be made, and perpetually penned, and in what manner and forme also the said Princes Electors shall authorize their deputies in that case of Election by them so appointed to be done, at the end of this booke you shall finde it set downe, and more plainely expressed, which forme so set downe, by our imperiall power and authoritie wee doe command in that manner to be obserued.

And whensoeuer it shall happen, that the death of the Emperour, or of the King of the *Romaines*, is knowne in the Diocesse of *Mentz*, then within a moneth from the day of the notice of the same, iustly accounted, our will and pleasure is, that the said Arch-Bishop shall by his Letters signifie the same vnto euery one of the Princes Electors, in manner as aforesaid, which if the said Arch-Bishop shall neglect or carelesly put off, then the said Princes Electors shall of themselues, without calling or warning (in performance of their oathes and allegiance to the Empire) at the end of three moneths aforesaid, as in the former institution is declared, repaire to the laid towne of *Franckford*, there to proceede to the Election of the King of the *Romains* to be Emperour.

And euery Prince Elector, or his deputie, shall enter into the said towne of *Franckford* at the said Election, with a trayne of, not aboue two hundred

horsemen, and not more; whereof fiftie of them onely, and not aboue, shall be armed.

And euery Prince Elector, that is called and summoned to the said Election, not comming thereunto, nor yet sending his lawfull deputie, with his Letters Patents vnder his hand and seale, with full power & authority to elect the King of the *Romains* to be Emperour, or if after the said Prince, or the said deputie, shall goe from the said place of election, the King of the *Romains* not being elected to be Emperour, nor his said deputie fully authorized, he shall lose his voyce which he ought to haue in such election.

Wee also charge, commaund and enioyne the citizens of *Francksord* to defend and protect all the said Princes Electors in generall, and euery one of them in particular, from all inuasions or tumults that may happen among them, vpon any particular dislike, and also from all other men that may attempt any thing against them, and likewise their seruants and followers, which they or any of them shall bring, to the number of two hundred aforesaid, into the said Citie; and they shall take their corporall oathes vpon the holy Euangelists, for performance thereof, vpon paine of incurring the danger of Periurie, together with the losse of all their Rights, Liberties, Priuiledges and Immunities, which by Emperiall authoritie they hold and enioy, and to fall into the danger of outlarie, both in body and goods: and in that case it shall be lawfull for euery man, at his or their owne liberties, without

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orderly proceeding, to inuade and assault them and euery one of them, when they will, and at all times, (being thereby depriued of all Law, as traitors and Rebels to the Empire,) without any punishment to be inflicted on them for the same, neither within nor without the Empire. The said citizens of *Frankford* also, during the time of the said Election, shall not suffer any man, of what estate or condition soeuer he be, in any sort to enter into the said Towne, (the Princes Electors themselues, and their deputies aforesaid excepted;) who are euery one of them to enter with two hundred horse men, as aforesaid: And if after they are entred with their traines aforesaid, or in their presence, any man be found to be there, contrary to our decree, the said Citizens presently and with all speede shall take order for his speedy departure out of the Citie, without stay, vpon paine of incurring the penalties aforesaid to be laid vpon them, or else of the breach of their oathes, which they are to take vpon the holy Euangelists for the performance of this our decree, as it is formerly expressed and declared.

*Touching the Election of the King of the* Romaines.

AS soone as the said Electors or their deputies are entred into the said Citie of *Frankford*, the next day in the morning, in the Church of Saint *Bartholomew*, they shall cause the Masse of the holy Spirit to be sung before them, to the end that the said holy Spirit might open their hearts, and illu-

minate

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minate their mindes, to chuſe and elect a good, & ſight and a fit perſon to be King of the Romans, and Emperour, and for the advancement of the Chriſtian faith: And after the ſaid Maſſe all the Electors or their deputies ſhall approach vnto the Alter on which the ſaid Maſſe was celebrated, where the ſpiritual Princes Electors ſtanding together with the temporall, the Goſpell of Saint *Iohn* (beginning *In principio erat verbum*,) ſhall be laid open before them, the ſpirituall Princes reverently laying their hands vpon their breſts, and the ſecular Princes laying their hands vpon the booke, in the preſence of all their company, who then are to be there ſhall take their oath, which oath the Arch-Biſhop of *Mentz* ſhal give vnto them, and ſhall openly pronounce the ſame in this manner.

I Arch-Biſhop of Mentz H I E R O. S. R. E. P. of the ſacred EMPIRE in Germany, and Prince Elector, ſweare to this holy Goſpell now laid before me, that vpon the allegiance which I owe to God and to the Empire of Rome, I will with all my power and beſt indeavour by Gods helpe, chuſe a temporall head for the people of Chriſtendome that is, a King of the Romans to be Emperour, ſuch an one as ſhall be fit and capable for the place, according to my allegiance aforeſaid, and my voyce, and the voyces of the Electors, without any fraud, or other ſiniſter and particular dealing, by mee that are in to be uſed, ſo helpe me God and all this holy Saints.

This oath in this manner being taken by the ſaid Electors, or their deputies, according to their ſaid oath, they ſhall proceed to the Election, and ſhall

not

not in any manner depart out of the said Citie of *Francksord*, before that the greater sort of them shall haue chosen a temporall head or gouernour of the world, or of Christendome, a King of *Romains*, to be Emperour; which if they shall prolong or deferre the space of thirty dayes from the day of taking their oathes, then the said thirty dayes being expired, they shall eate nothing but bread and water, nor by any meanes goe away from the said Citie, vntill or before they or the greater number of them shall haue chosen the ruler or temporall head of Christendome, as aforesaid. And after that in the same place, they or the greater part of them shall haue made their Election, the same shall be as lawfull and good as if it had beene made by the voice and consent of them altogether, without gaynsaying, and so shall be celebrated. And if it shall happen that any of the Electors, or their deputies aforesaid, shall stay longer from comming to *Francksord* to the Election, then the time appointed; yet if hee or they shall come thither before the said Election is made, wee ordaine and decree that he or they shall neuertheleſſe be admitted to the said Election, as well as if they had come thither at the first day and time aforesaid, which in the same manner wee will and commaund to be continually and perpetually obserued. Wee also ordaine, and by our imperiall power and authority commaund, that hee, who in manner aforesaid shall be chosen to be King of *Romains*, the Election being made, before hee shall doe any thing, or proceed to the ordering of any

affaires whatsoeuer, touching the Empire, by vertue of his place and dignitie of King of *Romans*, he shall by his Letters Patents confirme all the priuiledges, rights, liberties, graunts, auncient customes, and dignities vnto the Princes Electors both Spirituall and Temporall, which are knowne and reputed to be the principallest members of the Empire, and whatsoeuer else they shall haue obtained and enioyed in the Empire vntill the day of the Election; and when hee shall be crowned Emperour, he shall ratefie and confirme the same vnto all the Electors in generall, & euery one of them in particular, without any denyall or contradiction whatsoeuer. And in case whereas three Princes Electors, present, or their deputies in their absence, shall together chuse one of the Princes Electors, either present or absent, to be King of *Romans*, the voyce of him that is Elected, (if he be present, or his deputie in his absence,) shall be of sufficient power and means to encrease the greater number of the Election, and to make the same as effectuall, and of as good force, as if it had beene made by all the Electors together.

*The manner how the Spirituall Princes Electors shall sit by the Emperour, when he is set in his Imperiall Throne.*

*In the name of the holy and inseparable Trinitie.* Amen.

CHarles the fourth, by the diuine grace of God, Emperour of *Rome*, *Semper Augustus*, and King of

of *Bohemia*; in perpetuall memorie, and for the glory and grace of the holy Empire, the honour of the Emperour, and for an order hereafter to be prescribed to the common-wealth, to the end that the most reuerent and illustrious Princes Electors, may be maintained in peace and vnity of minde, who as principall pillers, circumspectly, prudently, wisely, and holily, sustaine, support and vphold the sacred edifice of the Empire, and whose assistances and aydes strengthen and corroborate the right hand of the Imperiall power; and how much the more by mutuall fauour and ample dignitie they are vnited together, so much the more peace and tranquility and commodity the people of Christendome thereby obtaine and enioy: therefore that among the venerable Arch-Bishops and Prelates of *Mentz*, *Colen*, and *Tryer*, Princes Electors of the sacred Empire, all dissention, suspition, and contention touching Superiority, or sitting in counsell, in the imperiall Courts, and seates, that may arise or grow hereafter, may be cut off and ceased, and that they being peaceable and quiet in minde may the better and freelyer consider of the important affaires of the Empire, and with one will, and consent, and vnity, medicate thereon, for the consolation and comfort of the christian people: By the counsell and deliberation of all the Princes Electors, both spirituall and temporall, wee Decree, and by our imperiall power and authoritie ordaine, this Order and Law, perpetually to be obserued, that the aforesaid reuerent Arch-Bishop of *Tryer*, shall sit opposite

right before the Emperors face. The Arch-bishop of *Mentz*, in his owne Dioceſſe and Prouinces, and alſo out of his Prouinces in all his Chancelours regiment throughout *Germany*; the Prouince of *Collen* onely excepted: And the Archbishop of *Collen* in his Dioceſſe and Prouinces, and out of his Prouinces throughout all *Italie*, may, ſhall, and ought to ſit on the right hand of the Emperour of *Rome*, in all publique actes, Imperial Iudgements, Aſſemblies, Feodarie Courts, Feaſts, Counſels, and all other actions, which may happen and fall out for the ſeruice and honour of the Empire: which mutuall order aforeſaid, of ſitting, ſo appoynted for them, wee ordaine and command to be obſerued and kept among the ſaid Arch-bishops of *Collen*, *Tryer*, and *Mentz*, and their Succeſſors for euer, that hereafter no contention or diſtaſte may, for the ſame, grow and breed among them.

### *Touching all the Electors ſitting in the Emperours preſence.*

WEe further ordaine, That whenſoeuer the Emperour ſhall holde his Imperiall Court of Parliament, in euery Seſſion, as well in Counſell, as in Parliament, and at meate, or any other place whatſoeuer, where the Emperour and the King of *Romaines* ſhall happen to ſit with the Princes Electors, next after the Arch-bishops of *Mentz*, or *Collen*, which of them, at that time, in regard of the qualitie of their places, or varietie of Prouinces,

and

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and his other Priuiledges, shall be set downe on the right hand of the Emperour, the King of *Bohemia*, being an annoynted and a crowned Prince, shall sit next vnto him; the Earle *Palatine* of the *Rheine*, shal haue the next place on the left side of the Emperor, after, one of the Arch-bishops aforesaid, whose chance it shall be then to sit on the left side of the Emperour. Then the Duke of *Saxon*, and after him the Margraue of *Brandenburgh*, shall sit downe. But, when, and as often as the Emperours shall be dead, then the Arch-bishop of *Mentz* shall haue power, as it is formerly set downe, by Letters, to summon all the Princes aforesaid, to come together for the election; who being all, or as many of them as can or will come, within the time of election, assembled, the said Arch-bishop of *Mentz*, and none other, shal aske euery one of his fellow Electors, their voice in the election, as followeth: First, the Arch-bishop of *Tryer*, whom we ordaine to speake first, & to whom we find that it hath still belonged: Then the Arch-bishop of *Collen*, to whom it belongeth to crowne the King of *Romaines*: The third, the King of *Bohemia*, who amongst the Temporall Electors, in regard of his Royall dignity, is the chiefe of them: The fourth, the Earle *Palatine* of the *Rheine*: The fift, the Duke of *Saxon*: and the sixt, the Margraue of *Brandenburgh*: who sitting orderly, the Archbishop of *Mentz*, shall aske euery one of them, whom they will choose, or giue their consent vnto.

Further, in the celebration of the Imperiall Offices, the Margraue of *Brandenburgh* shall holde the

Bason, whilest the Emperour or King of *Romaine* wash his or their hands: Next, the King of *Bohemia* shall beare the Kings cup to drinke, which, by reason of his regall Crowne, and according to the priuiledge of his kingdome, vnlesse he will voluntarily doe it, he is not bound to doe: The Earle *Palatine* of the *Rheine*, shall serue in the first dish; and the Duke of *Saxon*, shall exercise the place of Marshall, as he hath anciently vsed to doe.

*The Priuiledges of the Earle* PALATINE *of the Rheine, and the Duke of* Saxon.

AS often as the Empire shall happen to be void, the illustrious Earle *Palatine* of the *Rheine*, chiefe Sewer of the Empire, in place of the future King of *Romaine*, by right and priuiledge of his Earledome, ought to bee Ouer-seer in the territories of the *Rheine*, *Suevia*, and *Franconia*, for the Emperor; with power of exercising Iustice, presentation of Ecclesiasticall Benefices, receiuing Rents and Reuenews, and in the name of the Empire, to take the oathes of fidelitie and feoffments; which neuertheless, after the King of *Romaine* is elected, shall all bee reiterated, and they shall againe renew their oathes vnto him, the ordres of the Princes, and of those that are called *Fraelehen* excepted, which we specially reserue for the Emperour himselfe, or the King of *Romaine*: but all kindes of Alienations, or Obligations of Imperial things, are excluded out of his power. The like power of Ouer-seer, we giue and

appoint

appoynt vnto the illustrious Prince the Duke of *Saxon*, as Marshal of the Empire, in those places where the Iurisdiction of *Saxon* extend, in like manner and forme as aforesaide: and although in the interim that the Emperour or King of *Romaines* are to be elected, Iustice shall be done by the Earle *Palatine*, as chiefe Sewer, and Prince Elector; yet the County *Palatine* shall not execute the saide Iudgement in any other place, then openly in the Emperours Court, where the Emperour himselfe, or the King of *Romains*, if they were present, should doe it.

*How the Princes Electors shall take place before other Princes and Noble men of the Empire.*

WEe further ordaine, That whensoeuer, and at often as the Emperour shall summon a Court of Parliament; the Princes Electors aforesayd, both Spirituall and Temporall, according to the order prescribed, shall sit on the right and left hands of the Emperour, and so holde their places, and no other Prince, of what degree, state, or condition soeuer he be, in any place within the said Court, in going, sitting, or standing, shall be preferred before them. And this is specially to be obserued, and noted, that the King of *Bohemia*, at the celebration of the said Court of Parliament, in all and euery the actions aforesaid, (what other King, Prince, or Princes, of what estate soeuer he or they be, that may vpon any occasion be present therein,) shall haue the preheminence and preferment of sitting before him or them.

*Touching*

# The Golden Bull.

## *Touching the Succession of the Temporall Princes Electors.*

AMong the innumerable cares wherewith wee are busied for the maintenance of the happy state of the Empire, by the ayde and helpe of God, our heart and minde daily laboureth to this end, that a desired and wholesome vnion may alwayes be had and maintained, with sincerity of heart, among the Princes Electors of the Empire, whose prouidence, in time, will so much the sooner and easelier appeare, and take effect, when no errour shall arise among them, and thereby Charity better obserued, difficulty preuented, and right and equitie giuen to euery man. It is generally, manifestly, and publiquely knowne to all men, farre and neare, that the illustrious Princes, the King of *Behemia*, the County *Palatine* of the *Rhine*, the Duke of *Saxon*, and the Margraue of *Brandenburgh*, by vertue of his Kingdome, and their Principalities, in the election of the King of *Romains* to be Emperour, with the rest of the Spirituall Princes their Co-electors, by right haue their Places and Voices, and together with them, to choose them, as true and lawfull Electors of the Empire: lest that among the sayde Temporall Princes sonnes, in time to come, there may grow or arise any trouble, dissention or contention, touching the right, voyce and power of election aforesayd, and thereby to preuent all future impediments, lets, and hinderances therein, desiring

ſiring (by Gods help) carefully and wiſely to ſtay and ſtop all dangers, We ordaine, and by our Imperiall authority commaund, this preſent Law perpetually to be obſerued and kept; That whenſoeuer the ſayd temporall Princes, Electors, or any of them ſhall leaue their right, voyce, and power of election aforeſayd, the ſame ſhall iuſtly, lawfully and freely eſcheat and fall to the eldeſt ſonne and heire of him or them, being a Temporall perſon, without any contradiction whatſoeuer: And if the ſaid eldeſt ſonne, ſhall die without lawfull temporall heires male, by vertue of this our Imperiall Edict, the right, voyce, and power aforeſaid, ſhall fall to the next brother, being a Temporall perſon, rightly deſcending from his father; and after him, to his eldeſt ſonne, being a Temporall Prince: And ſuch ſucceſſion from the eldeſt ſonnes and heires of the ſaid Princes, in the right, voyce, and power aforeſaid of election, ſhall from time to time perpetually be obſerued, with this condition and clauſe neuertheleſſe, That if the ſaid Prince Elector, or his eldeſt ſonne, beeing a Temporall perſon, ſhall die, and leaue his heires male, being Temporall perſons, at the time of his deceaſe, vnder age, then the next brother to the laid eldeſt ſonne, ſhall be tutor, and adminiſtrator of the ſaid children, vntill the eldeſt of them ſhall attaine to lawfull yeares: whom we doe ordaine and appoint to be Elector, at the age of eighteene yeares, and at that time, the ſaid right, power, and voyce, and other appendances thereof, ſhall eſcheate vnto him: and then the ſaid adminiſtrator

strator shall resigne the said office and rights aforesaid wholly vnto him. And if any of the said Princes houses shall happen to faile, and be extinguished, for want of heires male; then the Emperour or King of *Romaines* for the time being, shall and may take order therein, and prouide an other Elector, as an escheate lawfully fallen to him and the Emperour, alwayes excepting the priuiledges, rights, and customes of our Kingdome of *Behemia*, touching the election of their King, in case of vacation, by the Subiects thereof, that haue right and authoritie to elect their King: Obseruing their priuileges, and ancient customes continually vsed, and by diuers Emperours of *Rome*, or Kings, graunted vnto them, which by this our Decree wee will by no meanes breake nor infringe, but rather confirme the same, from hence forward, to be and remayne in as full power and effect as heeretofore they haue beene, and so for euer to continue.

## *Of the immunities and priuiledges of the Kings of Bohemia, and the Subiects thereof.*

WHereas by two illustrious Emperours of *Rome*, and Kings of *Behemia*, our Progenitors and Predecessors, it was giuen and graunted vnto the sayd Kingdome and Crowne, and at this present, in the said Kingdome, from time out of minde, is and hath beene a laudable custome and law without any contradiction, and mis-construction, vsed among

among them, that no Prince, Baron, Knight, Gentleman, retainers to Nobles, Burgesses, Citizens, nor any other person or persons of the said Kingdome, or their adherents, of what estate, dignitie, preheminence, or condition soeuer they be, at any maner suite or summons whatsoeuer, shall be called, cited, warned, or summoned to appeare before any Iudge, or Iudgement Seate, Court of Law or Iustice whatsoeuer, out of the Realme of *Behemis*, and the Courts of law and equity therein holden, which time out of minde, hath so beene holden and vsed among them: Wee therefore, to renew and confirme the same Priuiledge, custome and indulgence, graunted them by Imperiall authoritie aforesayd, of our speciall grace, and by our Imperiall authoritie, doe ordaine, That if any Prince, Baron, Nobleman, Knight, Gentleman, retainers to Nobles, Burgesses, Citizens, Peasants, or any other person or persons of the saide Realme and Kingdome, shall be summoned, warned, or adioyned to appeare or answere to and before any Iudge, Iudgement Seate, Court of Lawe, or Iustice, out of the Realme and Kingdome of *Behemis* aforesaid, either for any criminall, ciuill, or any other cause or action whatsoeuer, and at any time or times what or whersoeuer, they are not in any manner or sort bound to appeare or answere to the same; and if that, for not appearing or answering, at, or before any such incompetent Iudge or Iudgement Seate, or whatsoeuer authorities out of the Realme of *Behemis* aforesaid, their aduerse parties shall in such manner pro-

ceed against them, and that Sentence definitive, or execution thereupon, shall be given and pronounced in any cause whatsoever in those Courts against them, by forraine authorities as aforesaid: We ordaine, appoynt, and judge the said Citations, summons, precepts, processe, sentences and executions thereupon ensewing, and all things which by the same, or any of those means, shall or may follow, be done, & attempted in this matter against them, to be vtterly void, disannulled, and of no force nor effect. Further adding, and expresly ordering, by our saide Imperiall authoritie, for euer to bee held, That although in the said Realme of Behemia, (time out of mind) the same hath alwaies beene obserued, if from hence forth any Prince, Baron, Nobleman, Knight, or retainer to Nobles, Citizens, Burgesses, Peasants, or any Subiects of the Realme of Behemia, of what estate, preheminence, dignitie, or condition soeuer he be, in any processe, sentence definitiue, precepts of the King of Behemia, or any of their Iudgements and executions thereof, made, pronounced and executed against them in Iudgement, eyther before the King, or the tribunall Seates of Iudgement in the said realme, thereunto commonly appoynted, shall appeale to any other Iudge or Iudgement seate out of the realme of Behemia, whosoeuer he be that shall doe so, and if the partie Defendant doth not resist nor gaine-say the Plaintife, both the Defendant and Plaintife, in that case, shall incurre the danger of loosing their suite.

of

# The Golden Bull.

## Of Gold, Siluer, and other kindes of Mettals.

THis present Statute we ordaine for euer to be obserued, and thereby declare that our Successors, Kings of *Bohemia*, as also all and euery one of the Princes Electors, both spirituall and temporall, which for the time perpetually shall be, shall lawfully haue, hold, enioy, and possesse all Mines of such Gold, Siluer, Tinne, Copper, Iron, Leade, and other kindes of Mettals, and also of Salt already found, or hereafter to be found, as at any time heretofore were within the said Realme of *Bohemia*, or the territories thereof; And likewise, that the said Princes Electors, in the prouinces, parts, lands, in particular domiations, and territories to them or any of them appertaining, shall lawfully possesse & hold and enioy the same, together with all rights whatsoeuer, (none excepted) whereby they might, may, and were wont to holde and possesse the same, as also to take lawfull towles and customes, heretofore giuen and graunted vnto them for the same, & which our Progenitors, Kings of *Bohemia*, and the said Princes Electors, and their Predecessors and Progenitors lawfully might claime, vntill this time, according to the auncient, laudable, and approued custome at this day, and long time before, vsed and obserued.

## Touching Money.

WE also ordaine, that the King of *Bohemia* our successour, that for the time shall be, as it appeareth, that the illustrious Kings of *Bohemia*

our predeceſſors, were wont to haue and peaceably vſed in former times, ſhall haue the vſe, libertie, and cuſtome of Coyning, Making, and vttering of Money ſtamped, in Gold and Siluer, in all places and parts of the ſaid Realme, or territories thereof, where the ſaid King ſhall be pleaſed to Coyne, and make the ſame, in what ſort, faſhion, & ſtampe ſoeuer they will, as vntill this time it hath been, and ſhall perpetually be vſed. And further, wee giue vnto the Kings of *Bohemia*, by this our imperial Conſtitution, libertie to authorize the Princes, Nobles, Earles and other perſons of the ſaid Realme, to buy Lands, Caſtles, Poſſeſſions, goods and Morgages, whatſoeuer or whereſoeuer in the Empire, or to receiue and take them of guift by any manner or meanes whatſoeuer, according to the tenour of the ſaid Lands, Caſtles, Poſſeſſions, Morgages, or goods accuſtomed; ſo that Free-hold, may be bought for Free-hold, Coppy-hold as coppy-hold, Feodarie as Feodarie, and ſhall in ſuch ſort be holden, that whatſoeuer the Kings of *Bohemia* ſhall buy or receiue, and ſhall be applied to the vſe and benefit of the ſaid Realme, ſhall continue so yeeld and pay the accuſtomed and ordained quit-rents and tallages due from them vnto the Empire. This preſent conſtitution, grace and fauour of our Imperiall Maieſtie, ſo graunted to the Realme of *Bohemia*, wee alſo giue and graunt vnto all the Princes Electors, as well ſpirituall and temporall, as alſo to their lawfull heires and ſucceſſours, in all points as it is formerly declared.

The

# The Golden Bull.

## *The Immunities and priuiledges, of the Princes Electors.*

WEe ordaine and decree alſo, that no Earles, Barons, Nobles, feodarie Vaſſailes, Knights, Citizens, Burgeſſes, nor any other perſon ſubiect to the Eccleſiaſticall iuriſdictions of *Mentz*, *Tryer* and *Colen*, of what ſtate, condition, or dignitie ſoeuer they be, ſhall not vpon occaſion, or by any procurement whatſoeuer, be cited or ſummoned to appeare, without the Territories, Bounds and Limits of the ſaid Churches, and the appurtenances thereof, before any other Tribunall ſeate or place of Iuſtice or Iudgement, then onely in the liberties and iuriſdiction of *Mentz*, *Tryer* and *Colen*, and before the Iudges thereof, in time to come, nor hereafter, according to the cuſtome of the ſaid churches in times paſt obſerued. And that if contrary to this our preſent Edict, the ſubiects of the Churches of *Mentz*, *Tryer*, and *Colen*, or any of them, vpon any occaſion whatſoeuer, ſhal chance to be cited or ſummoned to appeare before any tribunall ſeate, for any criminall, ciuill, or other cauſe or buſineſſe out of the limits and territories of the ſaid Churches, or any of them, they ſhall not be bound to appeare, nor in any ſort to anſwere therevnto, as alſo that the Citation, Proceſſes, and Sentences, diffinitiues, or otherwiſe, againſt them begun, for not appearing before ſuch forraine Iudges, or hereafter to be made and pronounced, as alſo the

precepts

precepts and executions of the same, and all things which from them, or any of them, or by what means shall or may be done and attempted, are and shall be voide and of none effect, expresly commaunding, that no Earle, Baron, Feodaris Vassall, Knights, Citizens, Burgesses, Peasants, nor any other person, subiects to the said Churches, or their inhabitants, of what estate, condition, or dignitie soever they be, shall appeale from the processes, sentences definitiue or other, & precepts of the said Arch-Bishops, and their Churches, or the executions therof made & pronounced, or to be made and pronounced against them, in the Arch-Bishopricks or their Consistories & tribunall seates, as long as they are not denied Law and Iustice in the Arch-Bishopricks, nor their Consistories aforesaid, and that such appeales in the forme made, shall not be received, accepted, nor allowed, but to the contrary, shall be voide, and of none effect. But for want of Iustice, they and every one of them may immediately appeale from them to the Imperiall Court and tribunall seate of the Emperor, & not to any other Court whatsoeuer, either ordinarie or extraordinary; & that whatsoeuer shall be done, contrarie to the premisses, wee pronounce it to be voyde and of none effect. The same Law, Order, and Statute by vertue of this our Imperiall Decree, the illustrious Duke of *Palatine* of the *Rhene*, the Duke of *Saxon*, and the Marques of *Brandenburgh*, temporall Princes Electors, and their heires, successors, and subiects, shall also hold and enioy, in manner and forme as aforesaid.

*Touching*

*Touching the assembling or meeting of the Princes Electors.*

AMong many other cares, wherewith we are daily busied, it seemeth much to import our greatnesse and sublimitie, that the Princes Electors of the sacred Empire, should often meete and assemble together, to sit about and consult vpon the affaires of the Empire, and the good of Christendome in generall: Which sound pillers and stedfast and immoueable supporters of the Empire, as they are a great way distant one from another, on the other side, meeting in counsell, they may consult vpon the defects of the Countries and Territories about them, by conferring and consulting together, and by their wholesome and sound counsels apply good remedies thereunto: Wherefore that we may dedicate our generall meeting and assembly, with the Venerable, Ecclesiasticall, and Illustrious temporall Princes Electors, and many other Princes and Nobles of the Empire, there, with good deliberation, and their counsell and aduise, for the common good of the Empire, to consult with the said Princes Electors, concerning Ecclesiasticall and temporall affaires: We further by vs thought good, that the said Princes Electors, from hence forth, euery yeare once after the feast of the Resurrection of our Saviour *Iesus Christ*, commonly called Easter, for the space of foure weeks together, shall meete & assemble in some one of our Imperiall Cities, and at the same time to

come or ensew in the next yeare, the same meeting or counsell to be holden by vs and the said Princes in our imperiall Citie of *Vienna* in *Austria*; and then at that place by our said Counsell, it shall be determined vpon the place where we shall meete againe the next yeare, for the same purpose: this our order to hold no longer then we and our Counsell shal be pleased to continue it: during the assemblies aforesaid, we will defend and protect them by our imperiall authority, both comming to, staying, and departing from thence further, lest the furtherance of the common good and peace of the Empire might by too much soloning, or vncalling frequenting of banquets be delayed, and put off, as many times it falleth out, and happeneth to be so, wee haue ordeined, that from henceforth, while this assembly aforesaid shall hold, that shall not be lawfull to all and euery generall Court of all the Princes of the Empire together, in any other place, [illegible] and expeditious mode, [illegible] Princes Electors, Nobles of the Empire, there with good deliberation, and their counsell, for the common good of the Empire, to consult with the said

WE further ordaine, and set downe for a [illegible] perpetuall Imperiall Law, that all Princes Iudges, and Lawyers, Presidents of any person or persons of what estate, preeminence or dignitie soeuer he or they be, or of any Cities, Townes or Vniuersities, &c. whereby any rights, graces, immunities, exemptions, or any other things, either by vs or otherwise

wise by the Emperours and kings our predecessors, in any manner or forme of words hath vnto them beene graunted, or that are to be graunted, by vs or our successors, Emperours & kings, in time to come, neither shall, may, nor ought at all to derogate and contrarie the liberties, iurisdictions, rights, honours, and dominions of the Princes Electors, temporall, ecclesiasticall, or of any of them in particular, notwithstanding, that in such priuiledges, and Letters patents, made to any person of what estate, dignitie, or qualitie soeuer they be, as aforesaid, or to any Vniuersity, it be or shall be expresly set downe therein, that they shall be irreuocable. If the said priuiledges and immunities be not found any wayes to derogate or contrary the priuiledges, liberties, iurisdictions, rights, honours and dominions, as aforesaid, of the said Princes Electors or any of them; if otherwise wee censure them to be reuocable, and to be disanulled; and by these presents, vnderstand, repute, and hold them to be reuoked.

*Of those to whom as vnworthy thereof, Fewffments are made.*

IN diuers parts and places, the feodaries, vassails of lands & benefices, which they haue peaceably obtained from their Lords often times by word of mouth, and fraudulently passe them ouer againe vnto their said Lords; which hauing done, they defie and maliciously fall out with their said Lords, and thereby wrong them, and vnder pretence of warre,

or enmitie, re-enter vpon the same, and forcibly hold and possesse them: Therefore, this present law shall for euer be obserued, that such resignations or surrenders shall be held and esteemed to be voide and of no value, vnlesse they be freely, orderly, and lawfully past ouer, in such manner, that the said benefices, & feoffments may be really & effectually assigned into the Lords hands againe, that so in time to come, there may no quarrell nor claime be made for them with the Lords, either by themselues or any other in their names, or by the counsel, aide or procurement of them, or of any man whatsoeuer; And doing to the contrarie, or troubling and molesting the Lords for the said benefices and feoffments, resigned or not resigned, or doing them any wrong, or counselling, aiding, or abetting others against them, in that case they shall lose their said benefices and feoffments, and be accounted, holden and esteemed to be infamous persons, and outlawes, and not worthy to enioy or repossesse the same, by any meanes: and if by any new contract, or bargaine by them made with their said Lords, they shall at any time be remitted into the same, by all manner of construction, the said feoffment shall be voyde and of no effect. Lastly, wee will and ordaine that they or any of them that shall not fraudulently make such resignations vnto their Lords, and yet afterward trouble them for the same, or fraudulently making them, wilfully molest, inuade, and assaile them by force of this our imperiall decree, shall incurre all the penalties aforesaid.

of

*of Conſpiracies.*

FVrther, deteſting (as our Lawes import) all conſpiracies, aſſemblies, or vnlawfull confederations, made, either in, or out of Cities, or betweene Cities and Cities, perſons and perſons, or perſons priuate and Cities, (vnder pretence of banquets, or meetings of friends and Citizens at funerall feaſts, &c.) thoſe kinde of aſſemblies, confederations, or compacts, as alſo the cuſtomes of the ſame, we cenſure to be corrupt, and doe reproouue, condemne, and vpon good aduice diſallow and diſanull them) of what eſtate, dignitie, or degree ſoeuer they be, either among themſelues, or without the authoritie of the Lords, whoſe ſubiects or miniſters, or vnder whoſe Iuriſdictions they are, (their ſaid Lords not excepted) or ſhall from henceforth doe, or in time to come preſume to doe, as by the ſacred Lawes of our excellent, imperiall predeceſſors, they are without doubt prohibited, and diſanulled: thoſe confederacies and Lawes excepted, which Princes, Cities, and others, for the generall peace of their Prouinces and Countries ſhall make, conclude and agree vpon among themſelues: which being in our Decree ſpecially reſerued, we iudge to be and remaine in force and vigour; vntil by vs other order ſhall be taken for the ſame;) And conclude, that if any particular perſon, contrary to the tenor of this our Decree, and the ancient Lawes made concerning the ſame, ſhall hereafter enter into any

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other confederacies, meetings, conspiracies, and compacts: besides the penalties for the same set downe in the Lawes, they shall incurre the danger of infamie, and the forfeiture of ten pounds; and those Cities or Vniuersities, that shall (in that case) doe contrary to our said Lawes, the forfeiture of an hundred pounds, together with the losse and deprivation of their Imperiall liberties and priuiledges; the one halfe of their said forfeitures, to be payd into the Emperours Exchequer, and the other halfe to the Lord of the place, in whose Iurisdiction the same was committed.

## *Of Pfalburgerie.*

BEcause no Citizens and Subiects to Princes, Barons, or such like persons, shall seeke to cast off the originall yoke of subiection (as they oftentimes doe complaine thereof vnto vs) and to that end boldely procure their admittion to dwell and inhabite in other Cities, and often in times past practised the same, and nevertheless still hold their Priuiledges in those Cities, Lands, Townes and Villages, wherein they formerly resided, and yet seeke to enioy the Liberties and Freedomes of those places whereunto they so remoue, and claime protection of the same, which in *Germany* was wont commonly to be called *Pfalburgerie*; To the end that no deceit nor guile should in such cases be fauoured or vpholden, by our Imperiall power, together with the counsell and aduice of all the Princes Electors,

dors, both Spirituall and Temporall, we will and ordaine this Law, perpetually to be holden, That such Citizens and their Subiects, so deluding or fraudulently dealing, in all the territories, places, and prouinces of the Empire, from this day forwards so fraudulently procure, and hereafter shall procure themselues to be entertained, and doe dwell in other Cities, [illegible] in the same Cities enioy any rights or liberties whatsoeuer, vnlesse they dwell corporally in the said Citie, and therein continually keep house, and truly, and not fainedly, reside in the same, paying Cost and Seruice due and payable therein. And if any, hauing receiued notice of this our Decree, are or shall be so receiued, from hence forth such their acceptance or receiuing shall be voyde, and of no force: and such as are so receiued, of what dignity, condition, or degree soeuer they be, from hence forth in no manner shall enioy any rights or liberties within the said Cities whatsoeuer, notwithstanding any priuiledges or customes by them obtained [illegible] in former times: Which as much, or so farre, as they are contrary to this our Decree, we doe hereby reuoke, and by our Imperiall power and authoritie, pronounce them to be voyde of all vigor and force. Touching the premises concerning the Princes, Lords, and others, which shall happen for, or hereafter, to be forfeited by their Subiects, their rights in the persons and goods of their Subiects that so shall leaue them, [illegible] excepted. Those neuertheless, that haue presumed, or shall hereafter presume so to receiue

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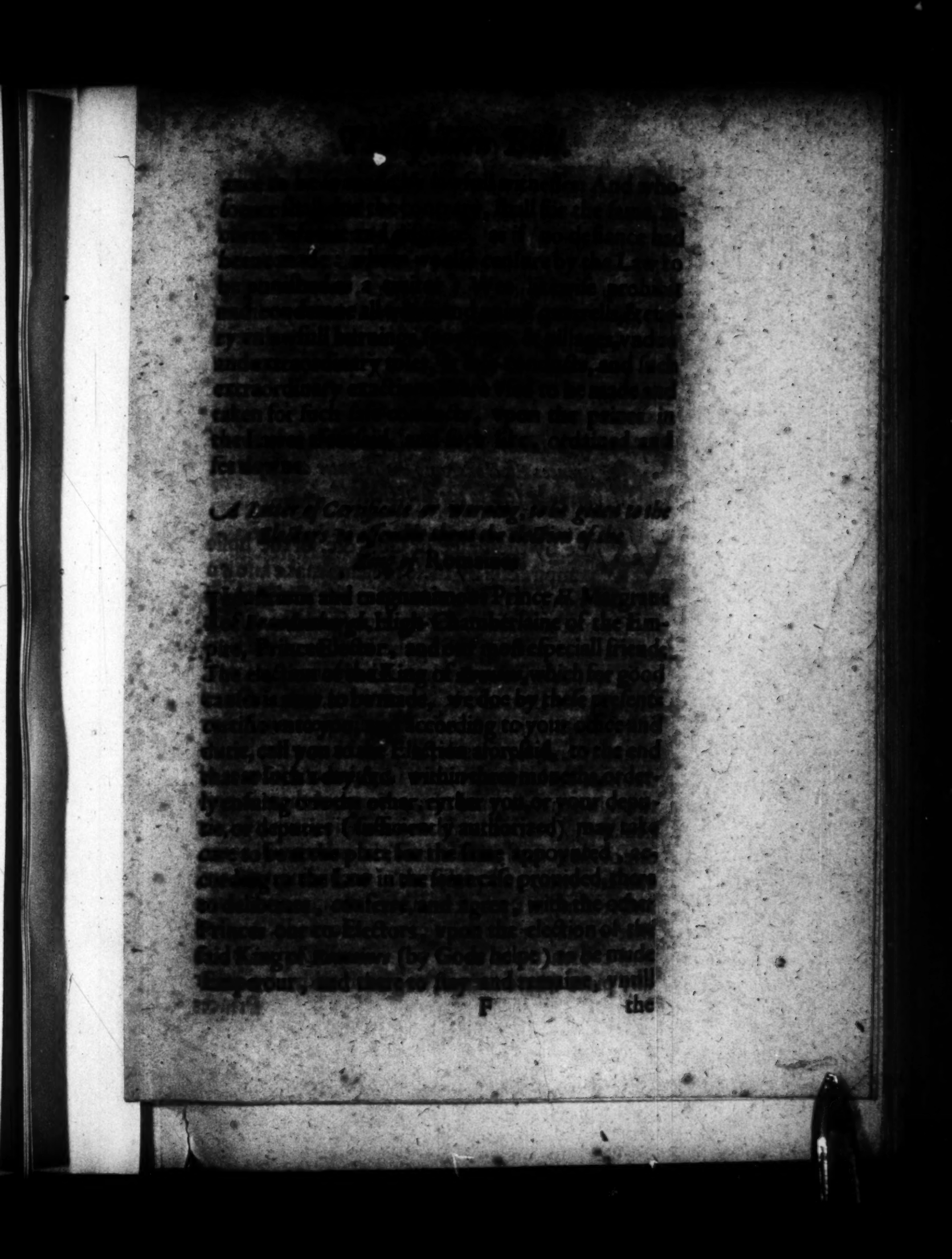
...oine and entertaine other mens Citizens and Subiects, contrarie to the tenor of this our present Decree; If they doe not remit and leave cleare vnto, within one moneth after the publication of these presents made vnto them, full satisfaction of the offending, forfeit and pay one hundred markes of fine, the one halfe vnto the Emperour ... and the other halfe to the Lords ... iured, without fauour or pardon.

...

Whereas we haue ordained by this Decree, that ... Since against them ... dwell not, or commonly inhabite, and so daily defie them ... person and ... parties defied, with their ... because other mens liuings and estates should not be vpholden nor ... for euer to be ... ances made, or that is time to come shall be made against any Lords, or persons, with whom they are conuersant, familiarised friends, feed or in seruice nor vnder ... pretence whatsoeuer ... spoyle, burne, and bereaue him of his goods ... vnlesse such defiances be cancelled ... nally vnto the party defied ... else ... that the party defying can ...

...nce



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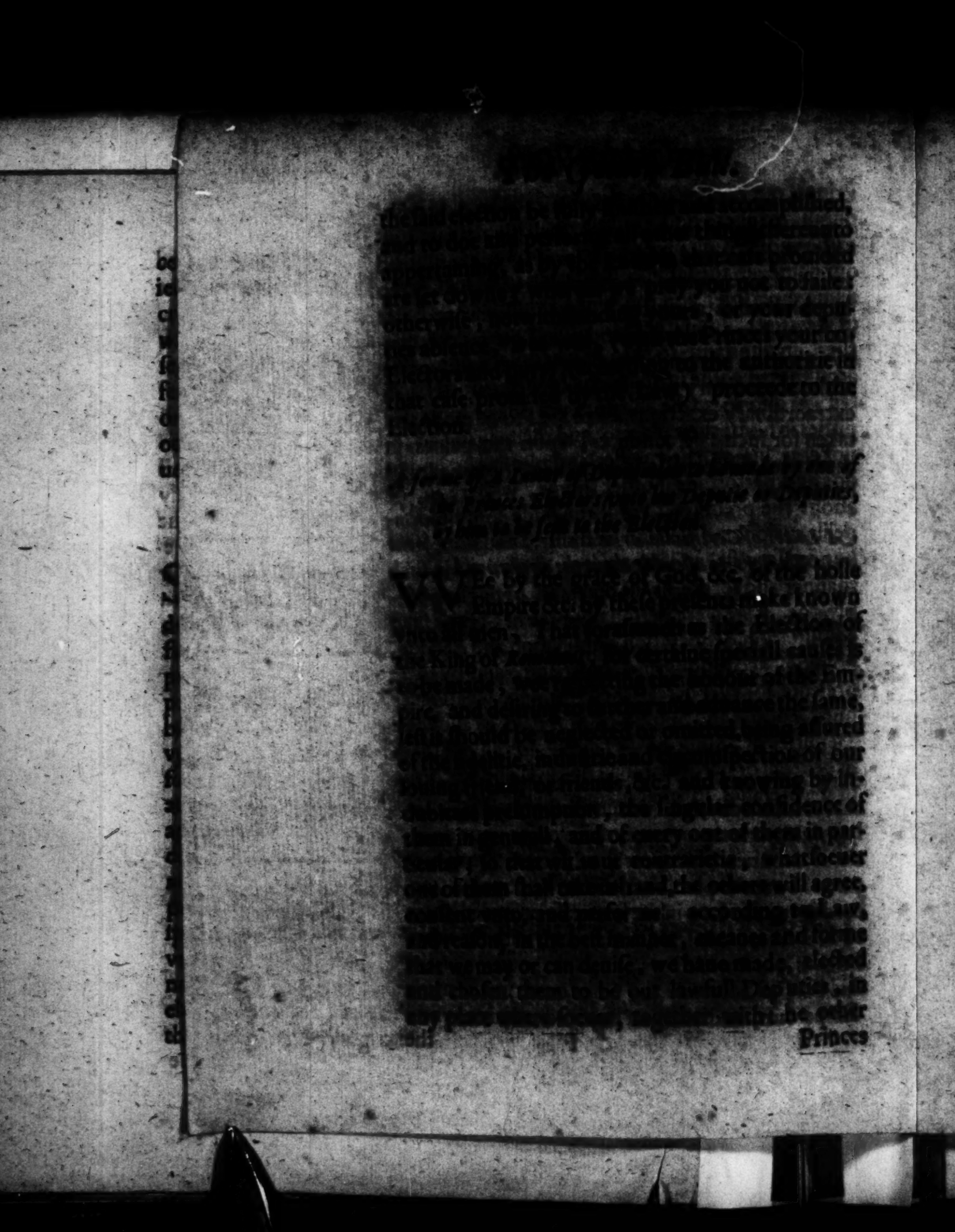
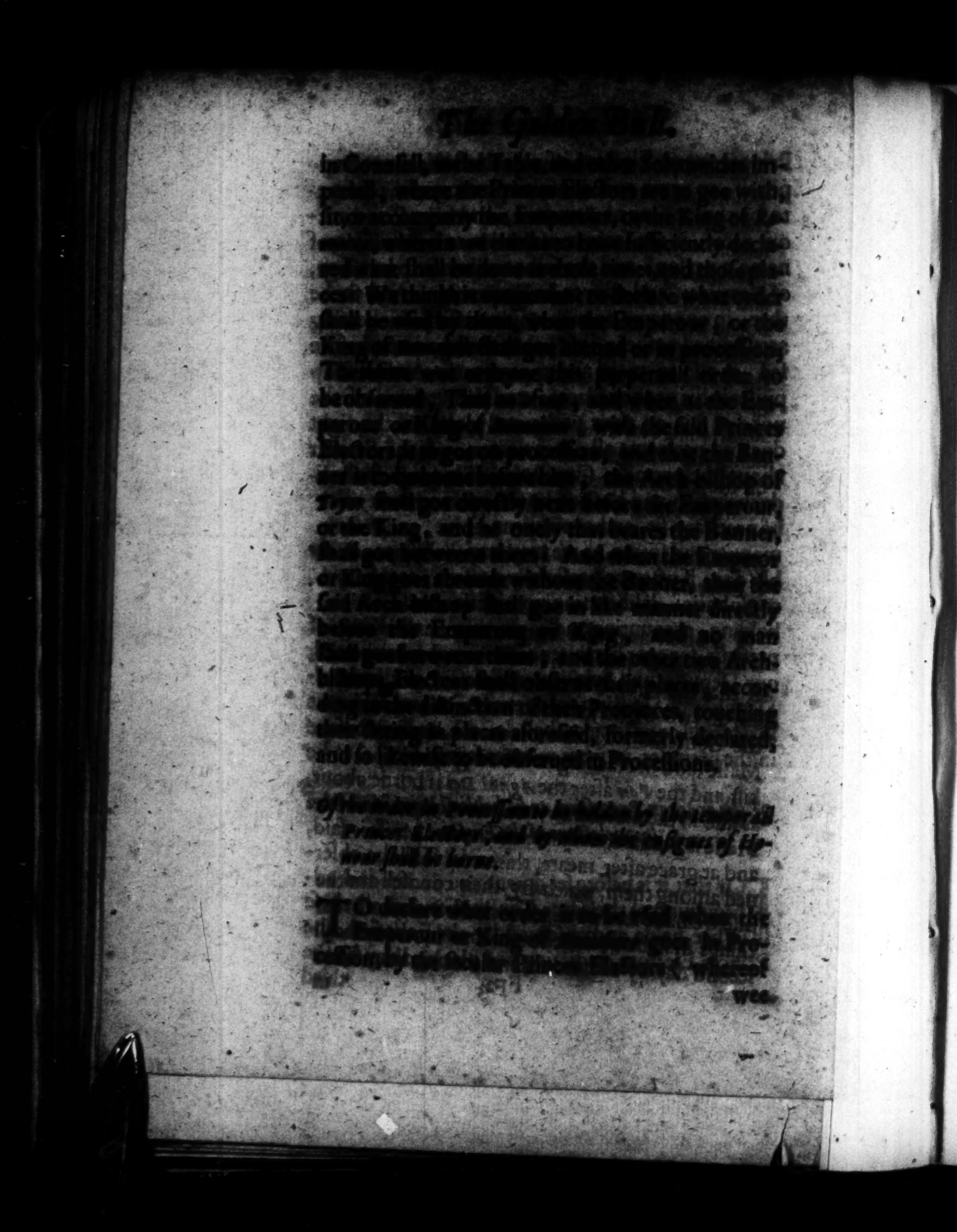


Princes our ſaid Electors, aſwell eccleſiaſticall as temporall, ſo agree and conſent vpon ſome fit perſon, to be choſen King of *Romanes*, and for vs, and in our name, in the ſame conſultation to be made, to name a perſon, and the ſame to chooſe to be King of *Romanes*, and after to be Emperour: And further, in our name to take any neceſſary doe, and accuſtomed oathe in that behalfe vſed, or to be vſed, as alſo to make and appoynt one or more deputies in his or their places, and them againe to revoke at his or their willes and pleaſures; and to doe and performe all other things, which, in, or about the premiſes (vntill the ſaide conſultation, deliberation, and election be finiſhed and done) ſhall be neceſſary, fit, and conuenient, as we, and in ſuch manner and forme, as we may, can, or might poſſibly doe, if we were perſonally preſent, at the ſayd conſultation, deliberation, nomination and election, holding, accounting and confirming, and by theſe preſents, for euer hereafter confirming, whatſoeuer our Deputies and Subſtitutes aforeſaid, as alſo theſe Deputies or Subſtitutes, or euery, or any of them in generall or particular ſhall do, act, and performe in the premiſes, in what manner ſoeuer, &c.

*Of the order in Proceſſion, to be holden by the Archbiſhops Electors of the Empire.*

FOr that it is before ſet downe and declared in the beginning of theſe our Conſtitutions, what order ſhall bee holde and obſerued by the Eccleſiaſticall Princes Electors, in ſitting and placing themſelues



# The Golden Bull.

*of the Hofing to be given by the Arab bishops, in the Emperours presence.*

AS often as in the Emperours or the King of [illegible] presence, Masse is to be celebrated, & that the Arab bishops of *Mentz, Tryer*, and *Colen*, or two of them, shall chance to be present in the Confession which is wont to be said before Masse, and in reading or saying the Gospel to be kist, and the *Pax* after the *Agnus Dei* is borne about, as also in the *Benedicite*, after the solemnity of the Masse is finished, and likewise before Masse is said, and at grace after meate, this order shall be observed among them, which by their counsell and advise we have set downe, that the first day all these things shall be observed and done by the first, the second day by the second, and the third day by the third

And

# The Golden Bull.

And further, we commaund him so to be noted & observed, that without our speciall licence, he shall not at any time presume or be permitted to have accesse vnto our person. Touching the daughters, how many soeuer they be, they shall not haue the full fourth part of their Mothers goods, whether she die Intestate or not, vnles we will also order, that they shall haue an indifferent part thereof for their reliefe, rather then the whole, as if they were her heires; for their sentence in truth, ought not to be so rigorous, that by inforcement of fewe sons of lesse power to commit euill. Euery person or Potestate made by the Emperor, either of the former daughters, shall be voyde and of none effect, neither shall any [illegible] from the time they are created into the said confederacie [illegible] able in law: And [illegible] they were so made by their Mothers vnto them that the [illegible] former, vnles the [illegible] ledge that reuerence to [illegible] the fourth part whereof [illegible] the daughters then to the [illegible] ment which we [illegible] ties and their former [illegible] vsed towards the Seruants, Officers and Abetters of them, and of their former. But if any of them, that in the beginning [illegible] faction, shall seeme to keepe counsell with the parties guilty, and afterward shall disclose it, and rather seeke to crosse it for our good and honour, and they

also

Touching

*Touching the integritie that is to be obserued among the Princes Electors.*

IF other Princes of our Empire doe agree in vnitie of ſpirit and willes to obſerue iuſtice and equitie, that the Subiects of the Empire may thereby liue in peace and tranquilitie; much more ought the Princes Electors of the Empire to ſeeke to maintaine and preſerue the ſame; for where the danger is moſt euident, there is ought more ſpeedily to be preuented, leſt thoſe the pillars breaking, the whole houſe ſhould fall to decay. Therefore We decree and ordaine this to be a perpetuall Law, That as in former time, out of the memory of man; ſo in time to come, the illuſtrious and magnificent Princes, the King of *Bohemia*, the Earle *Palatine* of the *Rhine*, the Duke of *Saxon*, and the Margraue of *Brandenburgh*, being ſtrictly bound together by their Territories, ought not touching homages, vaſſalage, and other rights to them belonging, to be ſeperated, diuided, or in any wiſe diſmembred, but to the end that they may rather be, and remaine in their perfect integritie, their eldeſt ſonne, ſhall ſucceed them in their rights, priuiledges, and dominions; vnleſſe hee ſhall chance to be diſtract of his ſences, fooliſh, or otherwiſe defectiue in mind, for the which cauſe he ought not, nor cannot gouerne others; in which caſes, being prohibited of ſucceſſion therein, the ſecond ſon (if there be any) or ſome other elder brother or coſin, that is a Temporall Prince, and next of bloud, that lineally deſcendeth from the father, ſhall be his ſucceſſor, who then ſhal deale kindly with the other

brethren and ſiſters, touching their maintenance, and as hee ſhall thinke good, and according to his meanes, without diuiding or diſmembring the principality and appurtenances thereof in any ſort.

*Touching the Emperours Court and Seſsions.*

THat day whereon the Emperours or the King of *Romaines* Court is to be holden, at an houre appointed, the Princes Electors both Spirituall and Temporall, ſhall come to the Emperours, or Kings Pallace, and there the Emperour or the King ſhall put on all his Imperiall Roabes, and mounting vpon their horſes, all of them ſhall goe with the Emperour, or the King, to the place where the Court is to be holden, orderly, and in manner and forme (as it is formerly ſet downe in our Decree, to that end made.) The chiefe Chancellour, in whoſe precinct or iuriſdiction it ſhall happen to be, ſhall beare or carry all the Seales and imperiall and regall Tipes vpon a ſiluer wand: The Secular Princes Electors, ſhall beare the Scepter, the Ball, the Sword, euery one as he is orderly to doe it, according to the Decree for the ſame purpoſe made; They ſhall likewiſe beare, (going directly next before, the Arch-biſhop of *Treyr*, keeping his ordinary place) firſt the Crown of *Arelate*, then the Crowne of *Millaine*, before the Emperour, as then apparelled in his Imperiall Roabes, which ſhall bee borne by other inferiour Princes, thereunto appointed by the Emperour. The Empreſſe or the Queene of *Romaines* apparelled in her Imperiall veſtures, ſhall goe and follow after the Emperour or the King of *Romaines*, and

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the King of *Bohemia*, (whose place is to goe next after the Emperour) an indifferent space from them; her Ladies and Maides of Honor orderly following her to the Court.

*The offices of the Princes Electors at the Solemnities which are to be observed in the Emperours Court at royall feasts and assemblies.*

WE ordaine and appoint, that when the Emperour or King of *Romaines* shall celebrate any solemne feasts, whereat the Princes Electors are to serue, and execute their Offices hereafter declared and set downe; the Emperour or the King sitting in the Imperiall Throne, the Duke of *Saxon* shall execute his office in this manner: Before the Gate of the Emperour, or the King, there shall be set a heape of Oates, so high that it shall reach to the breast or sadele of the horse, whereon the sayd Duke shall ride, who shall beare in his hand a siluer Wand, and a Measure of siluer, which both together shall weigh two hundred Markes of siluer; and sitting vpon his horse, shall first fill that measure full of Oates, and shall giue it to his seruant that is next vnto him; which done, sticking his staffe in the Oates, hee shall goe backe againe; and then his vice-Marshall, *Seigneur de Papenheym*, comming thither, or in his absence, the Marshall of the Court, shall distribute the rest of the Oates. The Emperour or the King being gone in to sit at the Table, the Arch-bishops, Princes Electors, standing before the Table, with the rest of the Prelates, shall say grace, according to the order formerly set downe:

and when grace is sayd, the three Arch-bishops (if they be all there) or two, or one of them, shall receiue the Imperiall or Regall Seale and Tipe from the Chancellor of the Court, hee in whose Chancellours iurisdiction that feast or solemnitie shall chaunce to be celebrated, standing in the middle, and the other two on either side of him, shall all lay their hands vpon the Staffe, whereon the said Seale and Type hangs, and so carry it, and with great reuerence laye it vpon the Table before the Emperour, or the King, who presently shall deliuer the same againe vnto them, & in whose Arch-chancelors precinct it shall then be, as aforesaid, he shall carry the greater Seale about his necke, to the end of the Table, and from thence to his house, riding from the Emperours Court vpon his horse.

The Staffe whereof mention was formerly made, must be siluer, waighing two hundred Markes, the third part of the value whereof euery one of the Arch-Bishops must pay and contribute equally, and that Staffe with the Seales and Types, must presently be giuen to the Chancelour of the Emperours Court, to vse them when occasion serueth; & after that he who by order carrying the great Seale about his necke from the Court, is gone home to his lodging, as aforesaid, he shall presently send it backe againe by one of his friends on horse-backe to the Emperours Court, to the Chancelour, which according to the dignitie of the place, and the fauour which hee is to beare to the Court of the Chancerie, hee is bound freely to deliuer to the said Chancelour. Then the Margraue of *Brandenburgh*,

Lord High-Chamberlaine of the Empire, comming on horſe-backe with a Siluer Baſon (waying twelue Markes in Siluer,) full of water in his hand, and a fine cleane Towell on his arme, lighting downe, muſt giue the Emperour or King of *Romaines* water to waſh his hands; after him the Earle *Palatine* of the *Rhine*, muſt come on horſe-backe with foure ſiluer Platters in his hands full of meate, euery one of them waying three Markes in value, who lighting off from his horſe, muſt carrie and ſet them downe vpon the Table before the Emperour, or King; after him the King of *Bohemia*, chiefe Butler of the Empire, riding on a horſe, with a Napkin on his arme, and a couered cup in his hand, (waighing twelue Markes) full of Wine mixt with water, lighting downe, giueth the cup to the Emperour or King of *Romaines*, to drinke. Further, wee ordaine, that the Secular Princes, Electors, hauing performed their offices, the Earle of *Falkenſtein*, vice-Chamberlaine, ſhall take the Horſe and Baſon from the Margraue of *Brandenburgh* for his fee; the chiefe maſter cooke of *Norembergh*, the horſe and diſhes from the Earle *Palatine* for his fee; the Earle of *Limburgh* vice-Butler, the Horſe and Cup from the King of *Bohemia*, for his fee; and the Baron of *Papenheym*, vice-Marſhall, the Horſe, Staffe, and Meaſure aforeſaid, from the Duke of *Saxon* for his fee, if they be there perſonally preſent, to execute their offices; but if they or any of them ſhall be abſent at that time, then the ordinary officers of the Emperours or King of *Romaines* Court, in their abſence, that is to ſay, in euery one of their pla-

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ces, that are absent, whose place is to execute the same, as to his office belongeth, shall take away and haue the aforesaid things. The Emperors table must be in such sort prepared & placed, that it must stand six foot higher then the rest of the tables in the hall, whereat (vpon that day) the Emperour or King of *Romaines* must sit alone. The Table whereat the Empresse or Queene of *Romaines* shall sit, must stand on the one side of the Hall, three foote lower then the Emperours Table, and so many foot higher, aboue the Princes Electors, which Princes shall haue their Seates or Tables, one as high as another, lower then the Emperours or Kings Table, being seauen in number, which shall stand, three on the right hand, and three on the left, and the seauenth directly before the Emperour, or King, (as in our Ordinance formerly made for the order & manner by them to be obserued in sitting downe in the Emperours presence, is at large declared) and no man shall sit with them at the saide Tables, but themselues alone: Neyther shall any of the saide secular Princes Electors, hauing performed his office, sit downe at the Table appoynted for him, as long as the rest of his Co-electors, Princes, are performing their offices; but while any of them, or their Officers, are about the performing therof, he shal stand at the Table appointed for him, expecting the performance of their offices aforesaid, and then euerie one of them shall sit downe at his seuerall Table.

Also, we finde in the ancient Records, time out of minde, that those that were our Predecessors thought it fit and conuenient to be obserued, that

the

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the election of the King of *Romaines*, to be future Emperour, should be made in the City of *Franckford*, and that his first Coronation should bee done in the City of *Aquisgranie*, and the first solemne feast held in the City of *Norembergh*: wherefore, for many considerations, we ordaine and appoynt the same to be so obserued in time to come, vnlesse any lawfull cause of hinderance or impeachment thereof fall out to the contrary. And if that any of the Princes Electors Spirituall or Temporall, vpon iust and good occasion; being summoned to be there at the sayd feast, cannot come, he shall send his deputie; but of what estate or dignitie soeuer hee be that is so sent for his deputy, yet hee shall not sit downe at the Table, or in the seate of him that sent him. Further, these offices and other things being performed at the sayde Imperiall or Kingly feast: The master or Steward of the feast shall haue all the tables, boords and scaffolds of wood for his fee, that was prepared against that feast for the Emperour and the King, as also for the Electors, at the celebration thereof, according to ancient custome.

## *What Fees the Officers are to haue when the Princes acknowledge Fealtie to the Emperour or King of Romaines.*

WE ordaine this Imperiall Decree, that the Princes Electors, Spirituall and Temporall, when they acknowledge their fealty to the Emperour or the King of *Romaines*, shall not be bound to giue or pay any mony to any man, at that time, for that the

mony

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mony which is due to Officers in that kinde, seeing the sayd Princes Electors, are euery one superior Imperiall officers, and haue their Deputies or Substitutes in euery one of their offices, giuen them by the *Romaine* Princes; it were absurd, that vnder-Officers or Substitutes should, vpon any colour whatsoeuer, aske or exact any fees of their Superiors, vnlesse the saide Princes of their owne free wills and liberalities, will giue them any thing. But other Princes, both Ecclesiastical and Secular, when they (as aforesayd) acknowledge fealty vnto the Emperour of *Rome*, or to the King, they shall giue to the Kings or the Emperors officers of the Court, sixty and six markes of siluer, vnlesse any of them can by speciall priuiledge or indulgence, by the Emperours formerly granted to them, discharge themselues thereof, and proue, that they are free from paying such, or any the like fees, vsed when they acknowledged their fealties; which sayd sixty sixe markes, the Master or Steward of the said Imperiall feast, shall diuide in this manner. First, reseruing ten markes for himselfe, hee shall giue, to the Emperors or Kings Chancelor of the court, ten marks, to the Masters of the Court, Clarks, and Doctors, three markes, and to the Clarke of the Seale, for Wax and Parchment, one marke; in such manner nevertheleſſe, that the Chancellor and Clarkes shall not take such fees of the Princes, but onely to testifie that they haue done their fealty, and to signifie the same. The said Master also shall giue vnto the vice-Butler of *Limburgh*, ten markes, to the master Cooke of *Norenburgh*, ten markes, to the

vice-

vice-Marshall of *Papenheim*, ten markes, and to the vice-Chamberlaine of *Falkenstein*, ten markes; vpon this condition neuertheleſſe, if they, and euery of them ſhall be preſent at the Court, to execute their offices according to their places; and that if they, or any of them be abſent, then the Officers of the Imperiall or Kings Court, that vſe to ſerue in thoſe Offices, ſhall ſupply their ſayd places, euery one as it falls out, and ſhall haue the ſaid fees accordingly. And when any Prince ſitting vpon an horſe or other beaſt, doth his fealty to the Emperour or the King, that horſe or beaſt, of what kinde ſoeuer it be, belongeth as a fee vnto the chiefe Marſhall, the Duke of *Saxon*, if he be preſent, or elſe, to the vice-Marſhall of *Papenheim*; and in his abſence to the Marſhall of the Emperours or Kings Court.

Forasmuch as that for the honour of the *Romaine* Emperour, it is expedient, that the ſaide Emperour hauing to deale and treate with diuers Nations of ſundry and ſeuerall Languages, ſhould vnderſtand and ſpeake the ſaid Languages; It is fit and conuenient in euery mans iudgement, that the Princes Electors, being the pillers and ſupporters of the Empire, ſhould be inſtructed and taught diuers Languages, that they may vnderſtand euery man, and be vnderſtood of them; and thereby aſſiſting the Emperour in his principall and ſpecialleſt affaires, he may the more be honoured. Therefore wee ordayne and appoint, that the illuſtrious Princes Electors, *viz.* the King of *Bohemia*, the County *Palatine* of the *Rhine*, the Duke of *Saxon*, and the Margraue of *Brandenburgh*, their ſonnes,

heires, and successors, whom they can perfectly vnderstand and speake their owne mother Language, the High-Germane nowmes, at the age of seuen yeares they shall be taught to speake the Latin, Italian, and Slauonian tongues, so that at fourteene yeares of age, by the helpe of God, they may well vnderstand the same, and for that it is necessary, that for speciall causes most commonly for that those Languages are most vsed in the Empire, and by them they may the better manage the Imperiall affaires: Which all being considered, we thinke it fit and conuenient, that the Electors should leaue the charge of their sonnes, if they haue any, or of their next kinsmen, whom they know vnto and shall be their heires and successors in their honours and lands, and cyther send them to such places where they may be instructed and taught those languages, or else keepe such Maisters and Instructors for them in their houses, together with yong Boyes that are skilfull in those Languages, to beare them company, that they may (by those meanes) the readilier, sooner and perfectlier learne, and be instructed in the same.

(*.*)

FINIS.

of the Germanic Empire

THE
PARTICVLAR STATE
of the
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THE SECOND.

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